



**STORY COUNTY  
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Monday, November 09, 2015

Mr. Jim Rost  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
Office of Location and Environment  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010

RE: US Highway 30 Planning Study, Story County, Ames to Nevada  
Environmental Assessment - Comments  
NHSX-30-5(244)-3H-85

Dear Mr. Rost:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on the July 30, 2015, Environmental Assessment. Please consider this as our continuing comment on the proposed project, supplementing the July 17, 2013 comment. We recently had an opportunity to review the West Alternative 1 preferred alternative plan. We strongly oppose the provisions of the current preferred alternative, specifically in respect to the permanent closure of the crossings at 580<sup>th</sup>, 590<sup>th</sup> and 600<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

As indicated in our prior comment, there are several important concerns and considerations that lead us to oppose the road closures, those remain today and include:

600<sup>th</sup> Avenue north of US Highway 30 was added to the Farm-to Market system and is utilized by farm-to-market traffic in relation to Lincolnway Energy and Dupont. Closing 600<sup>th</sup> would force agricultural traffic to use Airport Rd. and that road was not designed or constructed to accommodate this type of traffic.

590<sup>th</sup> Avenue was improved by Story County with \$200,000.00 of roadway enhancements in 2012. This is the primary access for business traffic to Lincolnway Energy, Dupont, Vetter Equipment and Flexi-Coil.

580<sup>th</sup> serves several local small businesses, by closing that road, they are essentially placed at the end of a road, a literal dead end.

One of the main reasons supporting the need for road closures, and therefore the current preferred alternative is safety. However, a review of Table 3.2 in the Environmental Assessment indicates failure to yield right of way accidents account for approximately 12% of all accident causes. The remaining causes: animals, weather conditions, and following too closely, are present on any stretch of road, regardless of road crossings.

Additionally, System Continuity goals may be accomplished while retaining some of the access points for businesses and the farming community along this corridor.

Respectfully,



Rick Sanders, Chair  
Story County Board of Supervisors



[www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov)

**Office of Location & Environment**

800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515.239.1626 | Email: [valerie.brewer@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:valerie.brewer@dot.iowa.gov)

Ref. No.: Story County  
NHSX-030-5(244)—3H-85

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) per Iowa Code 306.19(5), is providing this notice that the DOT proposes to implement corridor preservation for the future U.S. 30 from the Interstate 35 interchange at Ames east to South 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Nevada (see attached location map). The location of the Corridor Preservation Zone is as follows:

An area encompassing both sides of U.S. 30 from the Interstate 35 interchange at Ames east to the grade separation at S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street at Nevada. The width of the Corridor Preservation Zone varies depending upon the location within the corridor.

Please be advised that the cities of Ames and Nevada and Story County are required to notify the DOT in writing of receipt of an application for a building permit for construction valued at \$25,000 or more, of the submission of a subdivision plat, or of a proposed zoning change within the corridor preservation zone. This notification shall occur no less than 30 days prior to granting the proposed building permit, approving the subdivision plat, or changing the zoning. Written notification shall include all pertinent information regarding the proposed permit, plat, or zoning change.

Section 306.19(5) also states that if the DOT notifies the city or county in writing, within the 30 day period, the DOT is proceeding to acquire all or part of the property or property rights affecting the area, the city or county shall not issue the building permit, approve the subdivision plat, or change the zoning. The DOT may apply for an extension of the 30 day period. Following a public hearing on the matter, the city or county may grant an additional 60 day period. The DOT will begin the process of acquiring property or property rights from affected persons within ten (10) days of the DOT's written notification to the city or county of intent to acquire.

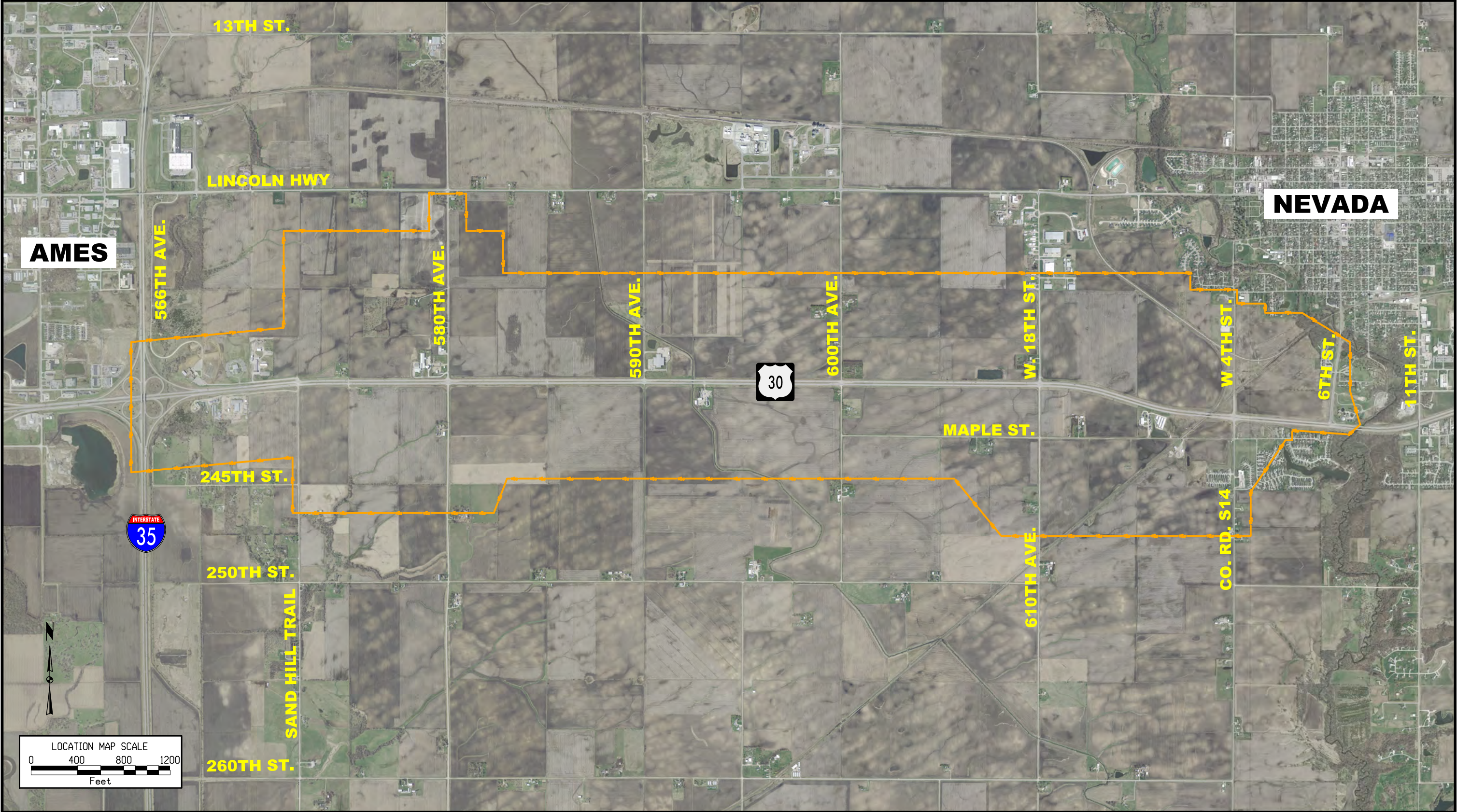
The city or county notice to the DOT of receipt of a building permit, subdivision plat, or proposed zoning change shall be submitted to:

Tony Gustafson  
Assistant District 1 Engineer  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
1020 S. Fourth St.  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: 515-239-1635 or 800-899-0623  
FAX: 515-239-1472  
[tony.gustafson@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tony.gustafson@dot.iowa.gov)

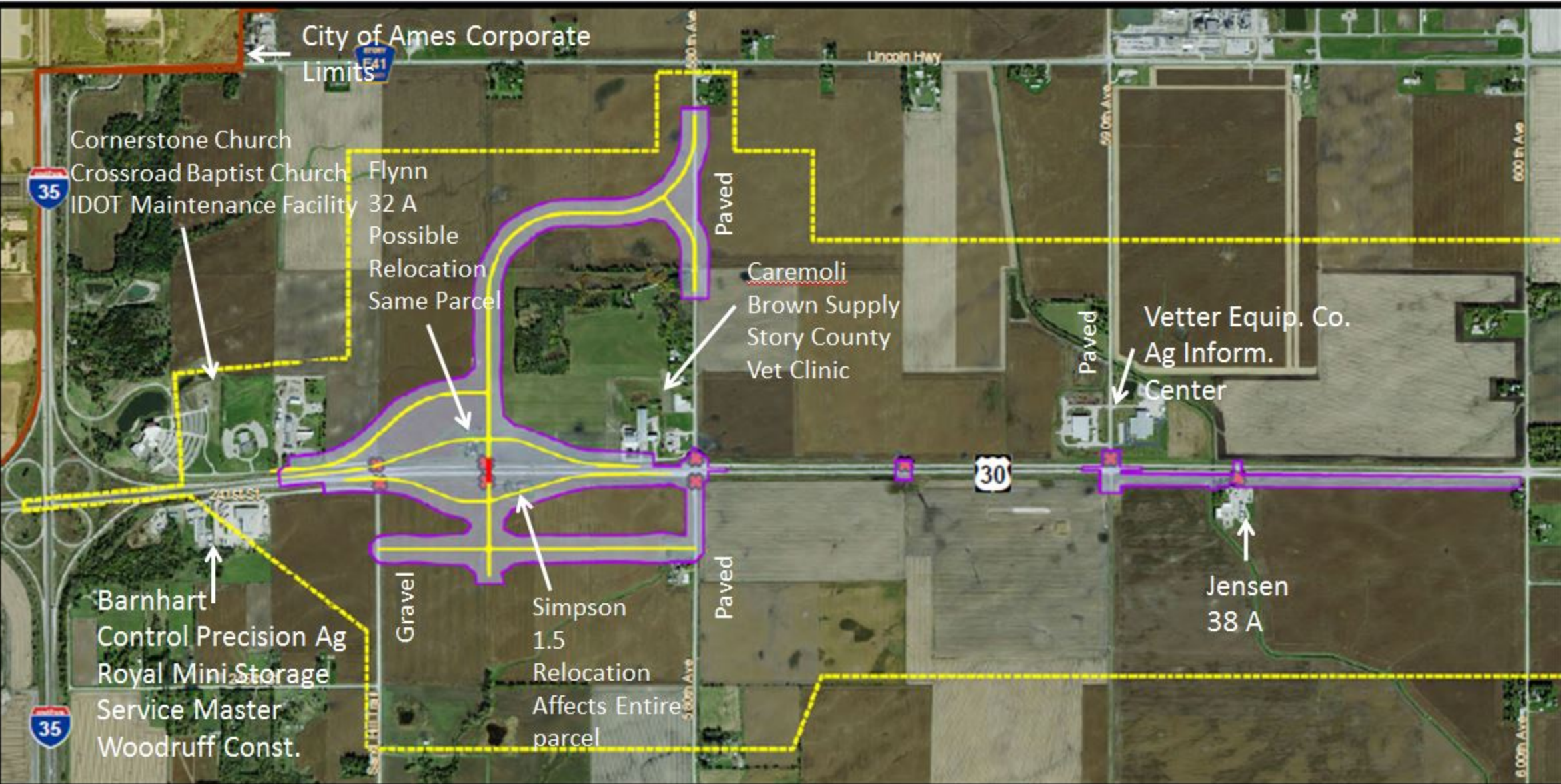
It is requested the Corridor Preservation Notice be provided to the appropriate staff person who is responsible for planning and zoning activities or issuance of building permits. The Corridor Preservation Notice will be effective on the day of publication in local newspapers, which is anticipated to be October 12, 2014. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and will assist us in preserving this highway corridor, which is of mutual interest and value to both the State of Iowa and your community.



Corridor Study Area





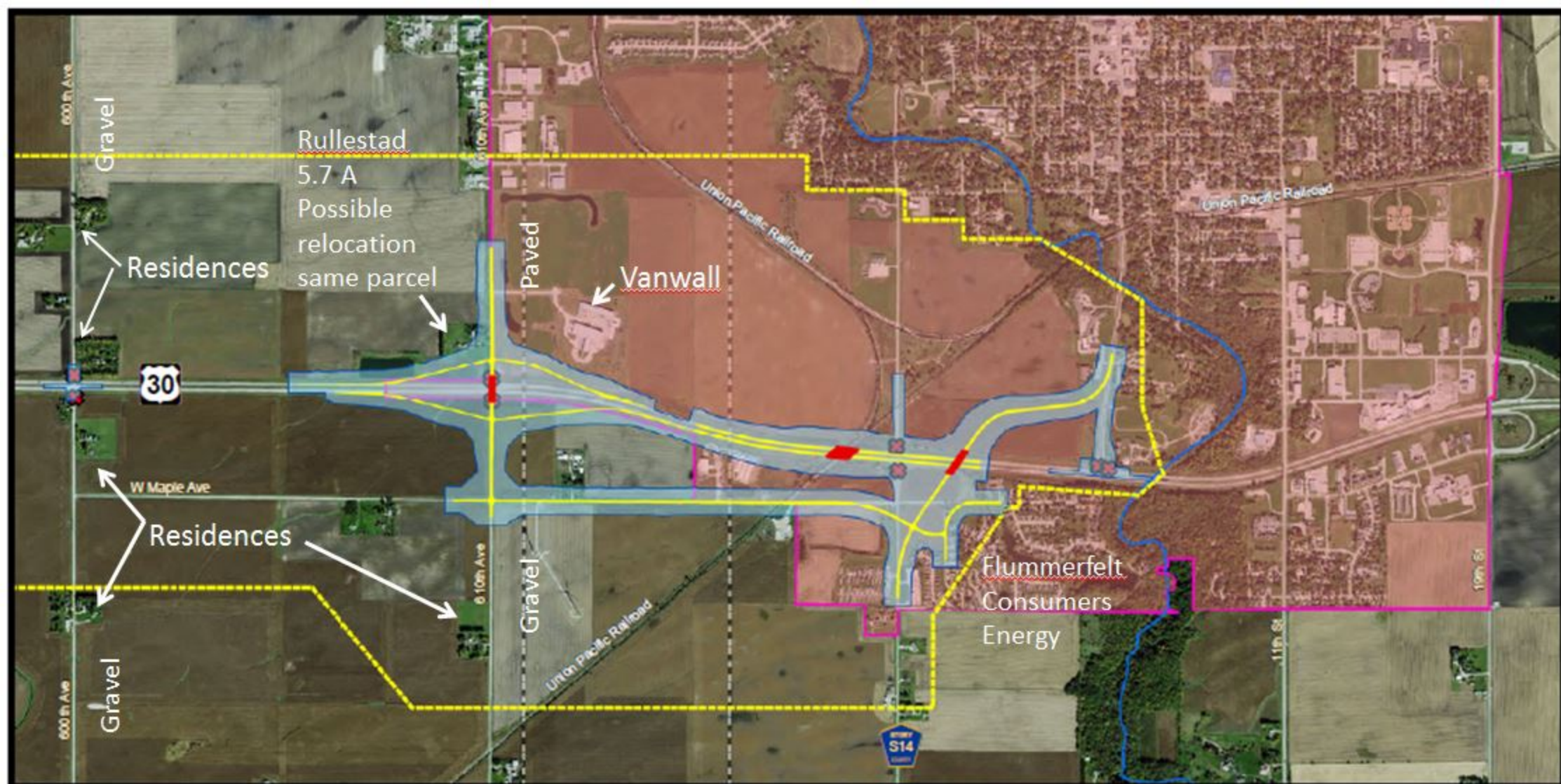


Created May 2015  
2015 Aerial



**FIGURE 4-3**  
**WEST ALTERNATIVE 1**  
NHSX-30-5(244)--3H-85  
U.S. Highway 30 Planning Study  
Ames to Nevada  
Story County, Iowa





Created May 2015  
2013 Aerial



- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Alignment
- X Closures

- Impact Area
- City of Nevada
- Indian Creek

- Project Study Area
- +—+—+— Railroad
- - - - - Pipelines

**FIGURE 4-4**  
**EAST ALTERNATIVE 3**  
NHSX-30-5(244)-3H-85  
U.S. Highway 30 Planning Study  
Ames to Nevada  
Story County, Iowa